

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE to the

Report of the Independent Review of the Queensland Fruit Fly incursions in Tasmania (Mike Blake, November 2019)

	Recommendation	Response
1	Biosecurity Tasmania develop publicly available material outlining respective Federal and State responsibilities when pest (not just Qfly) incursions occur and that this information be actively communicated to relevant persons and parties.	<p>The recommendation is accepted in full.</p> <p>Biosecurity Tasmania has begun development of publicly available material for a range of pests and diseases as outlined.</p>
2	DPIPWE continues to pursue identified improvements with the national fruit fly system with Federal, State and Territory governments.	<p>The recommendation is accepted in full.</p> <p>The General Manager Biosecurity Tasmania represents Tasmania on the National Biosecurity Committee which is leading improvements to the national system. The GM is also currently acting chair of the National Fruit Fly Council, the body tasked with a coordinating a range of system activities including updating the National Fruit Fly Strategy</p> <p>The Chief Plant Health Manager is currently Chair of the Australian Plant Health Committee driving implementation of improvements in the system.</p> <p>Biosecurity Tasmania's entomologist specialising in Fruit Fly represents Tasmania on bodies reviewing the National Fruit Fly Management Protocols and improve R&D on Fruit Fly.</p>
3	<p>Biosecurity Tasmania:</p> <p>a) review submissions received focussing on recommendations</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted in full.</p>

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	<p>made and adopt them, or explain why not, and work with industry in their implementation;</p> <p>b) spend time with growers, or through their representative bodies, outlining actions needed by them when incursions of this nature arise and why;</p> <p>c) continue to work with industry in the development of material and processes that will assist responses to pest outbreaks in future; and</p> <p>industry groups develop arrangements whereby they can better work together, and better with Biosecurity Tasmania, when responding to incidents of this nature.</p>	<p>a) An assessment of submissions will be undertaken and any additional and actions deemed appropriate will be implemented. This will be done in cooperation with representative stakeholder bodies.</p> <p>b) A program of work is currently under development</p> <p>c) This work is well advanced</p> <p>Biosecurity Tasmania will work with peak industry groups. Funding was provided in the 2017–18 and 2018–19 State Budgets to Biosecurity Tasmania for improved communications and stakeholder engagement and to FGT and TFGA for industry communications packages. These programs include preparedness for communications activities in any future responses, including improved biosecurity preparedness and emergency response capacity through biosecurity education, training and support programs. Building on existing partnerships with the TFGA and FGT, the next focus is working with key industries such as wine and plant nurseries. A new tourism biosecurity program will also be developed to engage with the tourism industry and visitors about the vital importance of biosecurity to Tasmania.</p>
4	<p>Biosecurity Tasmania:</p> <p>a) work with industry to develop and implement suitable, cost effective, simulation activities;</p> <p>b) when developing the simulations referred to, ensure these address</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted in full.</p> <p>The \$2.6 million per annum (2019–20 State Budget) Securing Our Borders initiative provides funding for improved</p>

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	<p>responsibilities and activities required interstate;</p> <p>c) should incursions of this nature occur again, make suitable arrangements with industry and growers for contact with Biosecurity officers;</p> <p>d) outline to industry and growers their approach to incursion risk at airports and other points of entry and build upon their risk-based approach when developing simulations referred to; and</p> <p>e) ensure their discussions with industry include the roles played by retailers and expectations of this sector.</p>	<p>biosecurity preparedness and emergency response capacity, with a particular focus on partnering with peak industry groups. A Biosecurity Emergency Preparedness project has been initiated to drive this work. The project will build response capability for both Government and Industry and improve coordination between bodies in responses.</p>
5	<p>Biosecurity Tasmania:</p> <p>a) be responsible for leading the development of a communications plan when Qfly type incidents arise; and</p> <p>b) working with communications experts and industry, develop a communications policy for application in the event of a Qfly incursion.</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted in full.</p> <p>The National Partnership Agreement for Queensland Fruit Fly Response in Tasmania has provided funding for appointment of an Industry Collaboration Manager to ensure Tasmanians industry has up to date advice and improve community engagement in support of emergency responses.</p>
6	<p>That:</p> <p>a) responses to Qfly incursions be initiated by the responsible Minister, and/or the Minister responsible for emergency services;</p> <p>b) the incursion be led by the State Controller (in this case the head of Biosecurity Tasmania);</p> <p>c) Biosecurity Tasmania and others responsible for emergency</p>	<p>The recommendation is accepted in full.</p> <p>These actions are within the scope of the Biosecurity Emergency Preparedness Project funded by the Securing Our Borders Initiative. The project has been initiated and will address this recommendation.</p>

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	<p>management in Tasmania clarify triggers in the TEMP as this relates to biosecurity incidents;</p> <p>d) Biosecurity Tasmania develop policies, in consultation with the SES and Police, on when to introduce road blocks and vehicle inspections; and</p> <p>e) responses to biosecurity incidents be well planned in advance of response action.</p>	